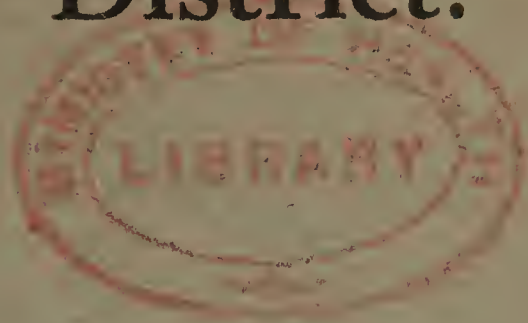


Ludlow Rural District.



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1942.

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1942.

LUDLOW.

1st July, 1943.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth-rate (15·2) and the Death-rate (10·6) compare favourably with the figures for the country as a whole.

It is satisfactory to report that the Maternal Mortality was nil. INFANTILE MORTALITY (17 deaths of Infants under the age of one year) was the highest recorded for many years, and the rate of 76 per 1,000 live births is very much higher than that for the country (49).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no serious outbreak of any Infectious Disease, Measles (68 cases) being the most prevalent. Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever and five cases of Diphtheria were notified, but there were no deaths from either disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. The protection of children has been continued and by the end of the year 80% of all the children in the area had been protected. This is very satisfactory indeed, especially so for a rural district, but it is essential that the efforts to get the young children protected as soon as they are twelve months old should be continued, as only in this way will the disease be controlled.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Fifteen new cases were notified, and there were eight deaths. The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is half the rate for England and Wales, but the Non-Pulmonary death-rate is higher for Ludlow R.D. than for the country.

In the Report mention has been made of the new schemes which have been introduced in 1943, through which it is hoped that further progress will be made in the country's efforts to combat the sickness and mortality due to this disease.

HOUSING.

It will be seen that twenty-four Houses have been built during the year. Fourteen Cottages for rural workers have been assigned to this area and it is hoped that they will soon be commenced. A further programme for post-war building has also been discussed.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Particulars are given in the Report of the larger Public Supplies in the area and also the results of analyses of samples. Safeguarding of water supplies is one of the most important matters in a rural district, and cannot be too carefully supervised.

MILK.

In order to prevent the serious loss of milk from souring which took place in the first two years of the war, a National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme has been brought into operation and this will be under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Frequent tests of all milk will be made and, if the results are unsatisfactory, these will be brought to the notice of the War Agricultural Executive Committee who will then arrange for advisory visits to be paid to the producer's farm.

It is hoped that through this scheme the cleanliness and keeping qualities of milk will be improved.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. GREGORY.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :**

H. M. WOOD, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.

(Resigned 31st December, 1942).

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. and Hy. (Appointed 1st January, 1943).**SANITARY INSPECTOR :**

G. W. GRAHAM, Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute.

N.B—Mr. Graham is also Surveyor to the Council.

SECTION A.**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**

Area (in Acres)	113,004
Estimated Population (mid year 1942) ...	14,590
Number of Inhabited Houses as at 31st Dec., 1942, according to rate book	3,850
Rateable Value	£65,721 12s. 6d.
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£274 6s. 9d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.**LIVE BIRTHS—**

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	106	100	206
Illegitimate	6	10	16
Totals	112	110	222

BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 of estimated population = 15·2.

STILL BIRTHS—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	4	8	12
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Totals	5	9	14

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births = 59·

	M.	F.	Total
DEATHS	81	75	156

DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of population = 10·6

INFANTILE MORTALITY—

All Infants, per 1,000 Live Births		= 76
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 Live Legitimate Births	=	67
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 Live Illegitimate Births	=	125

Total number of Infant Deaths—Legitimate		= 15
Illegitimate		= 2
Total		= 17

DEATHS from—

Cancer (all ages)		= 24
Measles (all ages)		= nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)		= nil
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)		= nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY—

There were no deaths under paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Return.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH-RATE. The total number of Births registered during the year was 222 (112 males and 110 females). Of these births, 16 were illegitimate (6 male and 10 female).

The Birth-rate is 15·2 per 1,000 of the population. (The rate for England and Wales was 15·8).

DEATH-RATE. Deaths registered numbered 156 (81 males and 75 females). The Death-rate was 10·6 per 1,000 of the population (England and Wales = 11·6). No real comparability factors are being supplied at present.

Among the chief causes of death were : Heart Diseases, 35 ; Cancer, 24 ; Bronchitis, 16 ; Prematurity, 9 ; Tuberculosis (all forms), 8 ; Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions, 10 ; Pneumonia, 8. Infectious Diseases (apart from Tuberculosis) only accounted for one death, from Influenza.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. No woman lost her life from any condition associated with child-birth.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. During the year the deaths were recorded of 17 children under the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 76 per 1,000 live births, and

is very much higher than the rate for the country. This is the highest number of infants' deaths recorded in the area for the last fifteen years at least, and it is difficult to account for such a large increase in infant deaths.

The causes of the deaths were as follows :—

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	9
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	...	4
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1

It will be seen that 13 out of the 17 deaths were due to causes operating before birth and, from the following particulars regarding the age at death, it will be seen that 13 of the deaths took place before the infants were four weeks old. These are called "Neo-natal deaths," and it is these deaths which it has been found difficult to reduce in number. It is certain that the health and general welfare of the mother, both physically and mentally, during pregnancy will have to be secured if we are to reduce this loss of infant lives. Much has been done but still more will have to be accomplished in this direction.

TABLE SHOWING AGE PERIOD AT DEATH OF INFANTS

Age Period—	Under 1 week	1—4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months
Number of Deaths	11	2	1	2	0	1

ANTE-NATAL CARE. The only Ante-natal Centre in the district is at Ludlow and, owing to difficulties in travelling no doubt, only 25% of the expectant mothers in the Rural District attended it in 1942.

Of course Ante-natal work is carried out also by the Nurses at the patients' homes and by Private Practitioners, but it would appear that further facilities either in the way of additional Clinics or of an extension of the provision made for domiciliary Ante-natal attention, will have to be considered if we are to improve the figures as regards Neo-natal deaths.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

STAFF. Dr. H. M. Wood resigned her appointment as Medical Officer of Health at the end of the year and was succeeded by Dr. J. L. Gregory, who commenced duty on the 1st January, 1943.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. There are two Ambulances available at Ludlow for cases of accident and illness. In addition, the County Council have an Ambulance at Shrewsbury, and there is also one to take patients to Cross Houses Hospital.

Infectious cases are removed to Monkmoor by an Ambulance sent from Shrewsbury. During the year there have been no cases where any delay was experienced in getting patients removed to any of the hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOME. There are two Nursing Associations in Ludlow, both of which are affiliated to the Shropshire Nursing Federation. Three Nurses are employed and visits are paid to general cases and to maternity cases in the Rural District.

In addition, there are Nurses in several of the parishes who, in addition to their other duties, assist in the work of the School Medical Service. Full details of the work done by the Nurses will be found in the Annual Reports of the Shropshire Nursing Federation.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. These include a School Clinic, Infant Welfare Centre, Ante-natal Centre and Orthopædic Centre, all of which are held at the County Council's Clinic at Dinham, Ludlow.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is at Belmont, Shrewsbury. Venereal Diseases are treated at a Clinic held at 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury, as under—

<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tues. & Fri., 6—8 p.m.	Mon. & Wed., 2—4 p.m.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. The following list gives the names of Hospitals, Sanatoria, and other Institutions which are available for residents in the district :—

ROYAL SALOP INFIRMARY	...	Shrewsbury.
COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL	...	Cross Houses.
SHIRLETT SANATORIUM	...	Broseley.
PREES HEATH SANATORIUM	...	Whitchurch.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION		Ludlow.
COTTAGE HOSPITAL	...	Ludlow.
EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL	...	Muir-vance, Shrewsbury.
SALOP MENTAL HOSPITAL	...	Bicton, near Shrewsbury.
JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	Monkmoor, Shrewsbury.
ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL	...	Gobowen.

The Royal Salop Infirmary and the Hospital at Cross Houses are for general medical and surgical cases, etc. Abnormal midwifery cases are admitted to Cross Houses, where the services of a Consulting Obstetrician are available by arrangement with

the County Council. If a patient is too ill to be moved the doctor in attendance can call upon the services of the consultant, who will visit the patient at her own home or at one of the hospitals in Ludlow as may be the case. In such cases the practitioner in attendance is asked to get into touch with the County Health Officer (Tel. Shrewsbury 3031) who will arrange for the consultant to visit; or in emergency, the doctor should communicate directly with the consultant (Dr. Frank H. Edwards, 14, St. John's Hill, Shrewsbury, Tel. No. Shrewsbury 2880).

Infectious Diseases requiring removal to an isolation hospital are sent to Monkmoor if beds are available.

At the present time a survey of the hospitals in Great Britain is being undertaken by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 16, King Edward Street, Oxford. It is hoped that from the facts gained by this survey, it will be possible to plan a comprehensive hospital policy for every county in the country.

Specially appointed delegates of the Trust will visit all hospitals and then report to the Ministry of Health.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The control of the purity of water supplies in a rural district presents many difficulties, the chief one being the large number of supplies which have to be supervised.

In an urban district with one source of supply the problem is easier to handle. In the future it may well be that water supplies in the country will serve much larger areas, and will be correspondingly fewer in number and therefore easier to control.

Private water supplies, supplying in some cases small groups of houses or farms, are also apt to cause difficulties to arise, especially when estates become broken up and an increase of consumption of water takes place on some of the farms, leaving the remainder without sufficient water in times of drought.

I am indebted to the Surveyor, Mr. G. W. Graham, for most of the following details regarding the public supplies in the area :—

CRAVEN ARMS. The source of supply is a well about 22 feet deep and situated in the pump house. Also, about 30 yards from the pump house there is a bore-hole, 18in. in diameter, and about the same depth as the well. In dry weather periods the flow into the well is much reduced and necessitates much longer hours of pumping.

Generally speaking the supply has proved adequate during the year, but complaints were received from Halford where ten houses experienced a shortage of supply. The 1½ in. cast-iron main was found to be encrusted with deposit and when this was cleaned the supply again became sufficient.

A sample of the main water supply taken on 15th April, 1943, was submitted to Bacteriological examination and proved very satisfactory (Presumptive Coli, 1 per 100 ml. Colony count at 37 c. 8 per ml. and at 22 c. 23 per ml.)

CLEOBURY MORTIMER. The source of supply is an underground stream. This stream is tapped and water piped to a large collecting tank near the pump house from which it is pumped to a reservoir about a mile out of the town. It is then distributed by gravitation.

There has been no complaint of shortage during the year which was one of low rain-fall.

A sample taken on the 15th February, 1943, showed some degree of organic pollution (Presumptive Coli, 13 per 100 ml. Colony count at 37 c. 25 per ml. and at 22 c. 130 per ml.)

CLEE HILL. The source of this supply is a running spring situated in the Cornbrook Valley. The water is raised by means of a hydraulic ram driven by the stream water which raises the spring water to a reservoir situated near the Craven Arms Inn, Clee Hill. The supply is then distributed by gravitation to the consumers. Some houses have the water laid on while in the case of others water has to be carried from stand-pipes.

A sample taken on the 10th February, 1943, was satisfactory (Presumptive Coli absent from 100 ml. Colony count at 37 c. = 8 per ml. and at 22 c. = 42 per ml.)

LUDFORD SUPPLY. The supply to Ludford Bridge, Steventon, and Sheet House is taken direct from the City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct. A sample submitted for Bacteriological examination on the 4th April, 1943, proved to be very satisfactory (Presumptive Coli in 100 ml. = nil. Colony count at 37 c. = 9 per ml. and at 22 c. = 7 per ml.)

CORELEY. This is a small supply for 50 or 60 houses in the Coreley Parish. The source of the water is Gibbet's Spring, from which the water is pumped into a 3,000-gallon tank and then distributed by gravitation to stand-pipes and houses.

A sample of this water was taken on the 11th June, 1943, and the Bacteriological report on this sample proved very satisfactory indeed (Presumptive B Coli, 3 per 100 ml. Viable Bacterial count at 37 c. 5 per ml., at 22 c. 6 per ml.)

STOKE ST. MILBOROUGH. This village gets its supply chiefly from a well in the village. A sample taken on 6th April, 1943, was very satisfactory and showed the water to be of excellent quality for domestic purposes. (B. Coli absent from 100 ml. Colony count at 37 c. = 10, at 22 c. = 52).

Other villages and isolated groups of houses get their supplies from wells. When any complaint is received concerning the water from a particular well, samples are taken and action recommended. At Cleobury Mortimer and at Craven Arms the supplies are chlorinated.

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

The Surveyor reports as follows :—

CRAVEN ARMS. No new sewers or drains have been laid during the year. The disposal of sewage is by collecting tanks and disposal over the land. After the war the question of enlarging the tanks will have to be considered.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER. New sewers and drains have been laid in connection with the 24 houses built by the Ministry of Supply. The sewers discharge into a small sewage disposal plant and the effluent then passes into a stream known as the Pudding Brook.

There is no proper sewage disposal scheme in the town, most of the sewage finding its way into the above-named brook. Plans for a scheme were got out before the war, but have been laid aside in the meantime.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

At Craven Arms there is a weekly collection of refuse which is deposited in a disused quarry outside the village. At Cleobury Mortimer the refuse is removed by the individual householders, and is deposited at the side of a lane in the vicinity of the water reservoir. A disposal scheme is required here.

SALVAGE.

During the year the following quantities of salvage were collected :—

Paper	...	...	12 tons, 17 cwts.
Bones	...	...	1 ton, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.
Scrap Iron	...	...	3 tons, 18 cwts.
Crushed Tins	...	...	18 tons, 15 cwts.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Schemes for the building of new houses and for the repair of others which require work done to make them habitable are at present under consideration, and may be considered under the following three heads :—

HOUSING OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

Circular 2766 (Ministry of Health) deals with this matter, and the number of houses allocated to the area is 14. The chief difficulties which have arisen in selecting suitable sites have been in connection with water supplies and sewage disposal. At the time of writing (May, 1943) the following sites have been selected :—

Site.	Number of Houses.	Type of Houses.
Sheet	Four	Parlour type.
Hope Bowdler	Four	Parlour type.
Stoke St. Milborough	Four	Non-parlour type.
Acton Scott	Two	Non-parlour type.

WATER SUPPLIES.

At Stoke St. Milborough it is hoped to get an adequate piped supply from the well which supplies the village, and the water from which is of great purity. At Sheet, the main Birmingham supply will be available, and at Hope Bowdler there is also a good supply.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES.

POST-WAR PROGRAMME.

Circular 2778 of the 4th March, 1943, calls upon all Local Authorities to formulate a programme which could comprise one year's building at the conclusion of the war.

Long-term housing programmes are not, of course, yet possible to plan, as they will depend on a number of factors not yet determined, such as location of industry, etc., etc.

The Committee appointed to deal with this matter have recommended that the Council should set down as a first-year post-war programme the houses which had been agreed upon

before the outbreak of war in 1939, viz. :—

Area.	Number of Houses.	
Hope Bowdler	...	8
Rushbury	...	6
Knowbury	...	2
Stanton Lacy	...	4
Munslow	...	2
Abdon	...	2
Wistanstow	...	4
TOTAL		28

Sites for these houses have not yet been decided on but will be selected by the Sub-committee which selected the sites for the houses for agricultural workers.

REPAIR OF HOUSES IN RURAL AREAS.

Circular 2799 of date 5th April, 1943, deals fully with the Ministry's views as to what can be done at present in the way of making houses habitable. It is pointed out that it will be best to secure the essential minimum of repairs in the largest number of houses rather than to concentrate on the more extensive repair of a few houses. In paragraph 15 of the Circular it is recommended that a limited amount of reconditioning of agricultural cottages in urgent cases is still possible under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and that release of materials required may be authorised by the Minister provided he is satisfied that the interests of agriculture will be served by the proposed works.

I am indebted to Mr. G. W. Graham, Surveyor and Inspector, for the following figures regarding work done in connection with housing matters during the year :—

Number of new houses built (including 6 flats)	...	24
Number of houses condemned or demolished	...	nil
Number of houses repaired after notice	...	18
Over-crowding, new cases reported	...	1
Over-crowding, cases abated	...	1
Houses reported verminous	...	nil

New houses connected to Public Water Supplies	...	25
Houses connected to Sewers	...	24
Repairs to Public Wells and Springs	...	3

Houses inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases, etc.	32
Informal Notices sent	20
Informal Notices complied with	18
Privies converted to Water Closets	8
Privies converted to Earth Closets	2
Various Nuisances and Housing Defects dealt with...	31

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughtering is carried out at Craven Arms for a wide district and the Inspector visits regularly for the purpose of inspecting the meat. He has supplied the following figures with regard to quantities of meat condemned during 1942:—

Cause of Condemning.	Class.	Quantity.
Tuberculosis	Beef	8,654 lbs.
do.	Pork	127 lbs.
Other Diseases, etc....	Beef	8,275 lbs.
do. do.	Mutton	1,584 lbs.
do. do.	Pork	448 lbs.
do. do.	Veal	606 lbs.
Total		19,694 lbs.

= 8 tons 15 cwts. 94 lbs.

TINNED GOODS.

A total of 220 lbs. of various tinned goods have been surrendered and condemned as unfit for human food.

The three Food-packing Factories in the area are visited regularly.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are 235 Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers on the register, three new ones having been added during the year. Cow sheds are visited periodically and 25 verbal notices were given, all of which were complied with. They dealt with flooring, lighting, drainage, ventilation, uncleanliness, and accumulations of manure, etc.

Number of T.T. Licences ...	4
Number of Accredited Licences ...	22
Number of Pasteurizing Licences...	nil

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, together with numbers sent to hospital, and deaths :—

Disease.	Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	5	5	0
Scarlet Fever	13	7	0
Measles	68	0	0
Whooping Cough	6	0	0
Pneumonia	7	0	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	1	0
Erysipelas	4	0	0

It will be seen from the above table that there was no serious outbreak of any of the Infectious Diseases, except for a number of cases of Measles which was also prevalent in the Borough of Ludlow.

SCABIES.

Some cases were notified through the schools and other channels. Treatment of this condition can be carried out at home but in the case of evacuees billeted on private families it is usual to move them to hospital or sick bay.

In a few cases among local residents also where home treatment was not possible, the cases were removed to Shawbury where facilities are provided for treatment. The expense of treatment in such cases is borne by the County Council.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The National Campaign for the protection of children against Diphtheria has proceeded during the year and in this area progress has been made. The following return was sent to the Ministry of Health in January, 1943, showing the position as regards Immunisation as at 31st December, 1943 :—

	Under 5 years	5—15 years	Total
I. Number of children who completed the full course of Immunisation during the six months ending 31st December, 1943	232	181	413
II. Approximate estimated number of children in the area as at 31st December, 1943	740	1940	2680
III. Percentage of all children in area considered to be protected as at 31st December, 1943	65%	86%	80%

The total of 413 children who were Immunised in the last six months of 1942 compares favourably with the figure of 40 who were Immunised in the first six months. The increase in the numbers protected is chiefly due to the co-operation of the County Health Department whose Medical Officers immunised 166 under the age of five years, and 126 children between the ages of five and fifteen years, a total of 292 out of the 413 children protected.

It is essential that the effort to secure the protection of all children as soon as they attain their first birthday should be continued with enthusiasm. If this is done we shall witness the virtual disappearance of Diphtheria as a cause of death among young children, of whom an average of 3,000 die annually from this disease in this country. Education of parents as to the advantages to their children to be gained if they are protected is perhaps the most important factor of all, and in this teachers, nurses and doctors can all help by explaining the necessity for immunising the children as early as possible after their first birthday.

TUBERCULOSIS.

On the 31st December, 1942, the number of notified cases on the Register was as follows :—

MALES		FEMALES		Total.
Pulm.	Non.-Pulm..	Pulm..	Non.-Pulm.	
40	45	41	35	161

The total of 161 is the same as at 31st December, 1941. Deaths numbered eight during the year, of which four were from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four from Non-Pulmonary forms.

New cases numbered eleven Pulmonary and four Non-Pulmonary cases,

DEATH-RATES—

Ludlow R.D. E. & W.

Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis			
per 1,000 of population ...	=	·274	·542
Death-rate from Non-Pul. Tuberculosis			
per 1,000 of population ...	=	·274	·115
Total Death-rate (all forms)		·548	·657

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1942.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5 yrs.			1	2			1	2
5-15 „	1			1				1
15-25 „	4					1		
25-35 „	1	1				1		
35-45 „	1							
45-55 „	2				1			
55-65 „		1				1		
Totals	9	2	1	3	1	3	1	3

During the year 1942 the Committee appointed to report on TUBERCULOSIS IN WAR TIME have issued their report and plans have now been announced as to the proposals which are to be put into effect as a result of this report.

These include the following: Maintenance Allowances for patients undergoing treatment and for their dependants; Allowances for Rent, Fuel, Children's Education, etc.; Extension of Hospital Accommodation for patients with Tuberculosis; better recruitment and distribution of Nurses; use of Miniature Radiography which it is hoped will lead to an earlier diagnosis of cases.

The provisions above mentioned will do much, it is hoped, to lesson the ravages of this disease which, in 1942, was the cause of more than 25,000 deaths in England and Wales. It should be remembered that the deaths from Tuberculosis are chiefly in the age group 15—24 years, in which group more than half of all the deaths are due to this one disease,

Those who have been interested in the fight against this disease know that the financial side of the problem has been one of the most important points. When a wage earner is stricken with Tuberculosis his family soon sink into poverty. Other members of the family, and especially the children and young adolescents, having insufficient food of the right kind, fall easy victims to the disease, and in this way the number of new cases is kept up year by year. The patient himself, knowing of his family's plight, worries about it and is unable to get full benefit of his stay in a Sanatorium, often indeed leaving it before he ought and returning to work too soon, only to have a relapse which probably ends fatally. Such is the history which is all too common.

Therefore, this new provision of allowances while the wage-earner is undergoing treatment is one which is certain to have good results and, coupled with the other schemes of earlier diagnosis, etc., mentioned above, should result in a still further reduction in the mortality from Tuberculosis and a decrease in the incidence of the disease.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from Cancer in 1942 was twenty-four (seven males and seventeen females).

This gives a death-rate of 1,654 per million living, the rate for the whole country (England and Wales) being 1,834 per million living.

At present, the chief hope of cure for Cancer is in early diagnosis and operative treatment, or in certain sites, treatment with radium. The difficulty is that it is not easy for a patient to detect the earliest signs or symptoms of the disease, and by the time obvious symptoms reveal themselves it is already too late to save life.

